Dear Bud, 4/26/74

Jim was not up to snuff when he was here yesterday, had much on his mind and has more than he can do before he is supposed to leave. So he may well have forgotten the message I asked him to give you. Really two.

One is that I would like to buy a copy of McCord's book as soon as he has one to sell. I am currently rather weary and am, for me, taking it easy, so it would be more convenient for me to read during my now more frequent rest periods. In fact, it is not uncommon for me to fall asleep sitting up. I say this in the even he has copies and the release date has not come. I won't jump it on him.

I have other interests in it now because I have decided that time has changed much and I'm taking an entirely different approach, starting all over again. In what I now have in mind the breakin is relatively insignificant. If I can't avoid mention of it, I have in mind no more.

This is not to say that I am not interested in knowing all I can about it. From the account I read in the papers, I think he tells it straight. In fact, some of what was not generally known I had already written exactly that way, from other sources, in what I am now abandoning.

And it is always possible that he may say something that may trigger something in my mind.

The other thing is simple. I could write him directly but I think it is against his interest, despite his publishing his book, for it not to be through his lawyer.

I have enough knowledge of the dealings with Caulfield from what is public. I also have a general knowledge of the period of March, 1973. But this I would like to have as specific as possible for special reasons. Without checking my recollection, he wrote Sirica 3/19 and four or five days later Sirica read his letter in court. As do most others, I regard this letter as one of the turning points. (In fact, if he can spare a xerox, I might want to reproduce some in facsimile if I can.)

What I would like to know is if he discussed this letter with anyone before he wrote it and if so the date or dates. Not merely the letter itself but the fact that he was going to write. Aside from this, only the mechanics of transmitting it.

You know me as he does not. I have no intention of using this in any way against him or against his interest.

Oh, yes, there is another thing, that cat house. If there is anything he can tell me about it and how Russell was leaned on about it-how he was abused in general- I might want to use that. Not essential, though.

What I now have in mind can't hurt him and can help him. I would hope that what I sent him through you about Alch should tell him my feelings about justice and the equality(?) of justice.

My earlier offer for him to bring his daughter here was with no strings attached. Besides, I don't think he is the kind who is pumped easily. But with the change in the season the fish are active, the golden trout now come to be fed and swim on top of the water, she can see the spawning nests, etc., and I think she, if not he, would enjoy it. If he decides to accept this invitation, I encourage him to save stale bread. My supply is exhausted and I no longer get near my usual source...M kes good pictures, too.

On your call to check about someone else's writing: I do plan to go into that in my own special way, from an extensive files and in this revision and in a book started long ago. However, your questions involved no conflict and I do welcome a chance to help keep the work of others accurate. Too many writiers jump to seemingly reasonable conclusions that may not be factual. The man involved is an able and complex personality.

Sincerely,